

A Guide for Parents and Families About What Your Child Should Be Learning In **HIGH SCHOOL** **SOCIAL STUDIES** This Year



This guide shares important information about the South Carolina Academic Standards. These standards outline state requirements for your child's learning program and what students across the state should be able to do in the required courses of Economics, United States Government, and United States History and the Constitution.

A good educational system provides many tools that help children learn. Academic standards are useful for making sure:

- teachers know what is to be taught;
- children know what is to be learned; and
- parents and the public can determine how well the concepts are being learned.

The following pages provide information about the South Carolina Academic Standards the required Social Studies courses of **Economics, United States Government, and United States History and the Constitution**. The information can help you become familiar with what your child is learning at school and may include activities to reinforce and support your child's learning, selected book titles for additional reading, and Web site addresses for extended learning. Because sites change, please preview before students begin work.

This version does not include every standard taught in **Economics, United States Government, and United States History and the Constitution**. The complete South Carolina Academic Standards for each subject area can be found at www.ed.sc.gov.

Sample and release assessment questions for the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) and End-of-Course Tests can be found at www.eoc.sc.gov/informationforeducators/TestItems.htm.

South Carolina Academic Standards

Here are seven key reasons parents should be in the know about the academic standards:

1. Standards set clear, high expectations for student achievement. Standards tell what students need to do in order to progress through school on grade level.
2. Standards guide efforts to measure student achievement. Results of tests (PASS) on grade-level academic standards and end-of-course examinations show if students have learned and teachers have taught for mastery.
3. Standards promote educational equity for all. Instruction in every school in the state will be based on the same academic standards.
4. Standards help parents determine if children in South Carolina are taught the same subject content as children across the nation. South Carolina Academic Standards have been compared with and matched to national standards as well as standards of other states to make sure that they are challenging.
5. Standards inform parents about the academic expectations for their child. Standards give parents more specific information for helping their child at home. Parents no longer have to guess the type of help their child needs to do better in school.
6. Standards enable parents to participate more actively in parent/teacher conferences. Knowledge of the academic standards helps parents understand more about what their child is learning and what they can do at each grade level. Parents are able to have conversations with teachers about student progress in specific areas and understand more completely the progress of their child.
7. Standards help parents see how the current grade level expectations are related to successive years' expectations. Parents are able to see how their child's knowledge is growing from one year to the next.

WEB RESOURCES

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE):
www.ed.sc.gov

South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC):
www.eoc.sc.gov

South Carolina Education Television (SCETV):
www.knowitall.org

Sample and Release HSAP and End-of-Course Test Items:
www.eoc.sc.gov/informationforeducators/TestItems.htm

ECONOMICS

High School Economics is a required course.

Students should be able to:

- Explain that the practice of economic decision making is an evaluation process that measures additional benefits versus additional costs
- Explain why the productive resources of land, labor, and capital are limited
- Apply the concept that people respond to positive and negative incentives to past and current economic decisions
- Illustrate how markets are created when voluntary exchanges occur between buyers and sellers
- Explain how efficient markets allocate goods, services, and the factors of production in a market-based economy
- Illustrate how competition among sellers lowers costs and prices
- Illustrate how an economically efficient market allocates goods and services to the buyers who are willing to pay for them
- Explain how business cycles, market conditions, government policies, and inequalities affect the living standards of individuals and other economic entities
- Explain how market power enables some market structures to affect their situations to varying degrees and to use this market power to increase prices and reduce output
- Explain that institutions in a market economy help individuals and groups accomplish their goals
- Illustrate how money and the consequent banking system facilitate trade, historically and currently
- Explain how real interest rates adjust savings with borrowing, thus affecting the allocation of scarce resources between present and future users
- Use a circular flow diagram to explain how changes in economic activity affect households and businesses
- Explain how the federal government regulates the American economy in order to provide economic security, full employment, and economic equity
- Explain how economic indicators are used to evaluate changes in economic activity
- Illustrate the relationships among business cycles and unemployment, growth, price levels, wage rates, and investment
- Explain how the Federal Reserve regulates the amount of cash that banks can acquire and retain and therefore helps to provide a foundation for economic stability
- Exemplify how government, in a market economy, provides for services that private markets fail to provide and thus the costs of government policies often exceed benefits
- Summarize how differing factor endowments—such as geography, the development of technology, and the abundance of labor—affect the goods and services in which a nation specializes
- explain how the United States specializes in the production of those goods and services in which it has a comparative advantage
- Explain how the rise of a global marketplace contributes to the well-being of all societies but the benefits derived from globalization are unequal
- Explain how a global marketplace influences domestic labor markets, wage rates, unemployment levels, and disparities in earning potentials
- Explain how individuals make personal economic decisions and how

current spending and acquisition of debt can impact future income

- explain that income for most people is determined by the market value of the productive resources they sell
- explain how wage rates for most workers depend upon the market value of what the workers produce for the marketplace

Activities

Have your child:

- Watch/listen to the nightly news on television with your child. Identify and talk about economics related topics.
- Subscribe to a local newspaper, online news service, or news magazine (*Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*) and review the daily or weekly news with your child. Identify any economics topics and relate them to topics being studied in your child's classes.
- Take your child shopping. Talk about why some items are on sale and others are not.
- Compare the wages of people in several different occupations. Discuss why the wages depend on the value of what the workers produce for the marketplace.
- Help your child develop a budget and talk about personal economic decision-making
- Drive around your community or city. Talk about how the factors of geography, technology, and the availability of a labor force helped determine what types of businesses are located in the area.
- Take your child to your local bank. Talk about the role of the bank as it relates to the economic activity in your community.
- Take your child to a city council meeting when budgets are being discussed. Talk about the role of government in promoting entrepreneurial activity.

Books

- Galbraith, John Kenneth. *The Affluent Society*
- Gladwell, Malcom. *Outliers: The Story of Success*
- Gladwell, Malcom. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*
- Friedman, Thomas L. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*
- Levitt, Steven D. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*
- Smith, Adam. *The Wealth of Nations*
- Sowell, Thomas. *Basic Economics: A Citizen's Guide to the Economy*
- Tapscott, Don and Anthony D. Williams. *Wikinomics*

Web Sites

- Economics Library — www.econlib.org
- Economics Resources — www.econedlink.org
- Economics Web Sites — www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk
- Federal Reserve — www.federalreserve.gov
- Financial News — www.thestreet.com
- Foundation for Teaching Economics — www.fte.org
- International Monetary Fund — www.imf.org
- The Economist — www.economist.com
- U.S. Department of Labor — www.bls.gov/eag
- Wall Street Journal — <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

United States Government is a required course.

Students should be able to:

- Analyze political theories related to the existence, necessity, and purpose of government, including natural rights, balance of the public and private interests, and physical and economic security
- Analyze components of government and the governing process, including politics, power, authority, sovereignty, legitimacy, public institutions, efficacy, and civic life
- Evaluate the role and relationship of the citizen to government in democratic, republican, authoritarian, and totalitarian systems
- Analyze the institutional and organizational structure of government that allows it to carry out its purpose and function effectively, including the branches of government and legitimate bureaucratic institutions
- Evaluate limited government and unlimited government with regard to governance, including rule of law, the role of constitutions, civil rights, political freedom, economic freedom, and the ability of citizens to impact or influence the governing process
- Evaluate the organization of government in confederal, federal, and unitary systems, including the distribution of power and the advantages and disadvantages of each system
- Summarize core principles of United States government, including limited government, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, individual rights, freedom, equality, and self-government
- Analyze developmental influences on the core political principles of American government, including Greek democracy, Roman republicanism, the Judeo-Christian heritage, and the European philosophers John Locke, Charles de Montesquieu, and William Blackstone
- Analyze the British heritage that fostered development of the core political principles of American government, including the Magna Carta, the Petition of Right (1628), the Glorious Revolution, the English Bill of Rights, and the Mayflower Compact
- Evaluate significant American founding documents in relation to core political principles, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, state constitutions, the United States Constitution, The Federalist papers, and the Bill of Rights
- Evaluate significant American historical documents in relation to the application of core principles (e.g., the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, the Ordinance of Nullification, the Seneca Falls Declaration, the Emancipation Proclamation, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"), the eleventh through the twenty-seventh amendments to the Constitution, and critical Supreme Court cases
- Evaluate the Constitution as the written framework of the United States government, including expression of the core principles of limited government, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, individual rights, freedom, equality, and self-government
- Evaluate the formal and informal structure, role, responsibilities, and authority of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government as the embodiments of constitutional principles
- Analyze federalism and its application in the United States, including

- the concepts of enumerated, concurrent, and reserved powers; the meaning of the ninth and tenth amendments; the principle of states' rights; the promotion of limited government; the protection of individual rights; and the potential for conflict among the levels of government
- Analyze the organization and responsibilities of local and state governments in the United States federal system, including the role of state constitutions, the limitations on state governments, the typical organization of state governments, the relationship between state and local governments, and the major responsibilities of state governments
- Evaluate the role of the citizen in the American political process, including civic responsibilities and the interaction between the citizen and government
- Analyze the process of political socialization and its relation to political participation
- Evaluate the role and function of common avenues utilized by citizens in political participation, including political parties, voting, polls, interest groups, and community service
- Analyze the process through which citizens monitor and influence public policy, including political parties, interest groups, the media, lobbying, donations, issue advocacy, and candidate support
- Evaluate the importance of civil rights and civil liberties for citizens in American political culture and the protective role of the national government through the Bill of Rights, the judicial system, and the Fourteenth Amendment
- Explain how fundamental values, principles, and rights often conflict within the American political system; why these conflicts arise; and how these conflicts are and can be addressed

Activities

Have your child:

- Subscribe to a local newspaper or an online news service and review the daily or weekly news with your child. Relate the news to topics being studied in your child's classes.
- Watch/listen to the nightly news on television with your child. Talk about stories related to the federal government.
- Ask adult friends or relatives about their role as citizens
- Keep a journal or a log of the activities of political parties within your local area
- Volunteer to help a local political party or a local service organization
- Take your child with you when you vote in a local, state, or national election. Talk about the election process and have him/her research the process of registering to vote at age 18.
- Visit our state or national capital. Discuss the branches of government and their responsibilities.
- Encourage your child to be a page for one of your senators in Washington, DC
- Help your child write a letter or an email to a representative or senator at the local, state, or national level about an issue that is important to him/her

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (CONT.)

Books

- Baker, Frank. *Political Campaigns and Political Advertising*
- Baker, Ross K. *House and Senate*
- De Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America, Vols. I and II*
- Holder, Angela Roddey. *The Meaning of the Constitution. 2nd Edition*
- Jefferson, Thomas and Founding Fathers. *Words of Our Fathers: Declarations of Freedom*
- Maisel, L. Sandy. *The Parties Respond: Changes in the American Political System*
- Paine, Thomas. *The Age of Reason*
- Paine, Thomas. *The Rights of Man*
- Wilson, James Q. *What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*

Web Sites

- Civil Rights Act of 1964 – www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/
- Democratic Party – www.democrats.org
- Declaration of Independence – www.usconstitution.net/declar.html
- Federal Government Statistics for Kids – www.fedstats.gov/kids/index.html
- Official Government Kids' Site – www.kids.gov
- Public Broadcast System (PBS) – www.pbs.org
- Republican Party – www.rnc.org
- State and Local Government – www.statelocalgov.net
- Time Online – www.time.com
- U.S. Census Bureau – www.census.gov
- U.S. Department of State – www.state.gov
- U.S. Federal Government – www.fedworld.gov
- U.S. Government Web Portal – www.usa.gov
- White House – www.whitehouse.gov

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND THE CONSTITUTION

United State History and the Constitution is a required course.

Students should be able to:

- Summarize the distinct characteristics of each colonial region in the settlement and development of British North America, including religious, social, political, and economic differences
- Analyze the early development of representative government and political rights in the American colonies, including the influence of the British political system and the rule of law as written in the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights, and the conflict between the colonial legislatures and the British Parliament over the right to tax that resulted in the American Revolutionary War
- Analyze the impact of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution on establishing the ideals of a democratic republic
- Analyze how dissatisfactions with the government under the Articles of Confederation were addressed with the writing of the Constitution of 1787, including the debates and compromises reached at the Philadelphia Convention and the ratification of the Constitution
- Explain how the fundamental principle of limited government is protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, including democracy, republicanism, federalism, the separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, and individual rights
- Analyze the development of the two-party system during the presidency of George Washington, including controversies over domestic and foreign policies and the regional interests of the Democratic-Republicans and the Federalists
- Summarize the expansion of the power of the national government as a result of Supreme Court decisions under Chief Justice John Marshall, such as the establishment of judicial review in *Marbury v. Madison* and the impact of political party affiliation on the Court
- Summarize the impact of the westward movement on nationalism and democracy, including the expansion of the franchise, the displacement of Native Americans from the southeast and conflicts over states' rights and federal power during the era of Jacksonian democracy as the result of major land acquisitions such as the Louisiana Purchase, the Oregon Treaty, and the Mexican Cession
- Explain how the Monroe Doctrine and the concept of Manifest Destiny affected the United States' relationships with foreign powers, including the role of the United States in the Texan Revolution and the Mexican War
- Compare the economic development in different regions (the South, the North, and the West) of the United States during the early nineteenth century, including ways that economic policy contributed to political controversies
- Compare the social and cultural characteristics of the North, the South, and the West during the antebellum period, including the lives of African Americans and social reform movements such as abolition and women's rights
- Evaluate the relative importance of political events and issues that divided the nation and led to civil war, including the compromises reached to maintain the balance of free and slave states, the abolitionist movement, the Dred Scott case, conflicting views on states' rights and federal authority, the emergence of the Republican Party, and the formation of the Confederate States of America
- Summarize the course of the Civil War and its impact on democracy, including the major turning points; the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation; the unequal treatment afforded to African American military units; the geographic, economic, and political factors in the defeat of the Confederacy; and the ultimate defeat of the idea of secession
- Analyze the effects of Reconstruction on the southern states and on the role of the federal government, including the impact of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments on opportunities for African Americans
- Summarize the end of Reconstruction, including the role of anti-African American factions and competing national interests in undermining support for Reconstruction; the impact of the removal of federal protection for freedmen; and the impact of Jim Crow laws and voter restrictions on African American rights in the post-Reconstruction era
- Evaluate the varied responses of African Americans to the restrictions imposed on them in the post-Reconstruction period, including the leadership and strategies of Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett
- Summarize the impact that government policy and the construction of the transcontinental railroads had on the development of the national market and on the culture of Native American peoples
- Analyze the factors that influenced the economic growth of the United States and its emergence as an industrial power, including the abundance of natural resources; government support and protection in the form of railroad subsidies, tariffs, and labor policies; and the expansion of international markets
- Evaluate the role of capitalism and its impact on democracy, including the ascent of new industries, the increasing availability of consumer goods and the rising standard of living, the role of entrepreneurs, the rise of business through monopoly and the influence of business ideologies
- Explain the impact of industrial growth and business cycles on farmers, workers, immigrants, labor unions, and the Populist movement and the ways that these groups and the government responded to the economic problems caused by industry and business
- Explain the causes and effects of urbanization in late nineteenth-century America, including the movement from farm to city, the changing immigration patterns, the rise of ethnic neighborhoods, the role of political machines, and the migration of African Americans to the North, Midwest, and West
- Compare the accomplishments and limitations of the women's suffrage movement and the Progressive Movement in affecting social and political reforms in America, including the roles of the media and of reformers such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Jane Addams, and presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson
- Analyze the development of American expansionism, including the change from isolationism to intervention and the rationales for imperialism based on Social Darwinism, expanding capitalism, and domestic tensions
- Explain the influence of the Spanish-American War on the emergence of the United States as a world power, including the role of yellow journalism in the American declaration of war against Spain, United States interests and expansion in the South Pacific, and the debate between pro- and anti-imperialists over annexation of the Philippines

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND THE CONSTITUTION (CONT.)

- Summarize United States foreign policies in different regions of the world during the early twentieth century, including the purposes and effects of the Open Door policy with China, the United States role in the Panama Revolution, Theodore Roosevelt's "big stick diplomacy," William Taft's "dollar diplomacy," and Woodrow Wilson's "moral diplomacy" and changing worldwide perceptions of the United States
- Analyze the causes and consequences of United States involvement in World War I, including the failure of neutrality and the reasons for the declaration of war, the role of propaganda in creating a unified war effort, the limitation of individual liberties, and Woodrow Wilson's leadership in the Treaty of Versailles and the creation of the League of Nations
- Analyze the United States rejection of internationalism, including postwar disillusionment, the Senate's refusal to ratify the Versailles Treaty, the election of 1920, and the role of the United States in international affairs in the 1920s
- Explain the impact of the changes in the 1920s on the economy, society, and culture, including the expansion of mass production techniques, the invention of new home appliances, the introduction of the installment plan, the role of transportation in changing urban life, the effect of radio and movies in creating a national mass culture, and the cultural changes exemplified by the Harlem Renaissance
- Explain the causes and effects of the social change and conflict between traditional and modern culture that took place during the 1920s, including the role of women, the "Red Scare", the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, immigration quotas, Prohibition, and the Scopes trial
- Explain the causes and consequences of the Great Depression, including the disparities in income and wealth distribution; the collapse of the farm economy and the effects of the Dust Bowl; limited governmental regulation; taxes, investment; and stock market speculation; policies of the federal government and the Federal Reserve System; and the effects of the Depression on the people
- Analyze President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal as a response to the economic crisis of the Great Depression, including the effectiveness of New Deal programs in relieving suffering and achieving economic recovery, in protecting the rights of women and minorities, and in making significant reforms to protect the economy such as Social Security and labor laws
- Analyze the decision of the United States to enter World War II, including the nation's movement from a policy of isolationism to international involvement and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- Evaluate the impact of war mobilization on the home front, including consumer sacrifices, the role of women and minorities in the workforce, and limits on individual rights that resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans
- Explain how controversies among the Big Three Allied leaders over war strategies led to post-war conflict between the United States and the USSR, including delays in the opening of the second front in Europe, the participation of the Soviet Union in the war in the Pacific, and the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Summarize the economic, humanitarian, and diplomatic effects of World War II, including the end of the Great Depression, the Holocaust, the war crimes trials, and the creation of Israel
- Analyze the impact of the Cold War on national security and individual freedom, including the containment policy and the role of military alliances, the effects of the "Red Scare" and McCarthyism, the conflicts in Korea and the Middle East, the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall, the Cuban missile crisis, and the nuclear arms race
- Analyze the causes and consequences of social and cultural changes in postwar America, including educational programs, the consumer culture and expanding suburbanization, the advances in medical and agricultural technology that led to changes in the standard of living and demographic patterns, and the roles of women in American society
- Analyze the African American Civil Rights Movement, including initial strategies, landmark court cases and legislation, the roles of key civil rights advocates and the media, and the influence of the Civil Rights Movement on other groups seeking equality
- Compare the social and economic policies of presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, including support for civil rights legislation, programs for the elderly and the poor, environmental protection, and the impact of these policies on politics
- Explain the development of the war in Vietnam and its impact on American government and politics, including the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the policies of the Johnson administration, protests and opposition to the war, the role of the media, the policies of the Nixon administration, and the growing credibility gap that culminated in the Watergate scandal
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the resurgence of the conservative movement, including social and cultural changes of the 1960s and 1970s, Supreme Court decisions on integration and abortion, the economic and social policies of the Reagan administration, and the role of the media
- Summarize key political and economic issues of the last twenty-five years, including continuing dependence on foreign oil; trade agreements and globalization; health and education reforms; increases in economic disparity and recession; tax policy; the national surplus, debt, and deficits; immigration; presidential resignation/impeachment; and the elections of 2000 and 2008
- Summarize America's role in the changing world, including the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the expansion of the European Union, the continuing crisis in the Middle East, and the rise of global terrorism

Activities

Have your child:

- Watch a national newscast each night and discuss current events related to U.S. foreign policy
- Read a daily newspaper to develop an understanding of world events and form an opinion about U.S. involvement in the world
- Watch history related programming on the History Channel, PBS, or other documentary channels. Talk about how events shown in programs are related to historical topics being studied in school.
- Interview and record oral histories of family or community members who were involved in the civil rights movement
- Visit the state archives and state and county museums. Compare cultural characteristics of South Carolina during different time periods (for example: antebellum period, Reconstruction, the Great Depression,

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND THE CONSTITUTION (CONT.)

- Read speeches, diary entries, and memoirs written by people who participated in significant events in U.S. history
- Read and talk about Supreme Court decisions in landmark cases
- Create an illustrated children's ABC or Story Book about key figures and events in American history for a younger family member or neighbor

Books

- Brokaw, Tom. *The Greatest Generation*
- Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
- Davidson, James and Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*
- Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much About History*
- Galbraith, John. *The Affluent Generation*
- Wallechinsky, David. *David Wallechinsky's The People's Almanac Presents the Twentieth Century History with the Boring Parts Left Out*
- Wiesel, Elie. *Night*

Web Sites

- African-American Mosaic – www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam015.html
- American Local History Network – www.alhn.org
- Declaration of Independence – www.usconstitution.net/declar.html
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 – www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/
- Federalists v. Anti-Federalist – <http://faculty.polytechnic.org/gfeldmeth/chart.fed.pdf>

- History of the World – www.historychannel.com
- Museum of Chinese and the Americas – www.mocanyc.org/
- Plessy v. Ferguson – www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=52&page=transcript
- Public Broadcast System (PBS) – www.pbs.org
- Smithsonian National Museum of American History – www.americanhistory.si.edu
- Social Security Act – www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=68&page=transcript
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History – www.gilderlehrman.org
- The Great War Timeline – www.pbs.org/greatwar/timeline/
- The Monroe Doctrine – www.law.ou.edu/ushistory/monrodoc.shtml
- The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow – <http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/remembering/bitter.html>
- The Thirteen Colonies – www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/
- The Trail of Tears – www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1567.html
- Time Online – www.time.com